



MONTANA
SCHOOL *for the*
Deaf & Blind

Giving kids the building blocks to independence

Student/Parent Handbook

MONTANA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

3911 Central Avenue
Great Falls, Montana 59405
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Table of Contents

Page 2 -	Procedure for Referral, Evaluation & Enrollment
Page 4 –	Transfer to LEA, Graduation Requirements, Support Services, School Day
Page 5 –	Attendance
Page 7 –	Travel Days, Grades, Honors & Awards
Page 8 –	School Day
Page 9 –	Classroom Procedures, Ten Goals for Students, General Information
Page 10 –	Study Habits, Test Taking, Homework
Page 11 –	School Wide Rules
Page 13 –	Definitions
Page 14 –	Manifest Determination, Title IX
Page 15 –	Searches and Seizures
Page 16 –	Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco, Gun Free Schools
Page 17 –	Weapons, Motor Vehicles
Page 18 –	Bicycle Use, Network Access
Page 19 -	Telephones and Cell Phone Usage
Page 20 –	Electronic Games & Equipment
Page 21 –	Dress Code, Extra-Curricular Activities
Page 22 –	Rights and Responsibilities
Page 25 –	Cottage: Philosophy & Objectives, Health Services
Page 26 –	Cottage: Behavior, Rules for Day Students, Sign In/Out Procedures
Page 27 –	Cottage: Progressive earning of Privileges, Student Employment, Student Bank
Page 28 –	Cottage: Telephone Usage, Electronic Games, Personal Equipment
Page 29 –	Cottage: Clothing, Room Decorations, Dating
Page 30 –	Cottage: Weekend Visits to other Student's Homes, Independent Living Skills Program

The Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind (MSDB) is a state supported special purpose school serving as a placement option for hearing impaired or visually impaired (deafness, hearing impairment or visual impairment 20-8-102, MCA) children who are not more than 21 years of age. Services available at MSDB are dependent upon the funding provided through direct appropriation of the state legislature.

PROCEDURE FOR REFERRAL, EVALUATION, AND ENROLLMENT AT MSDB

1. Referral of Students for Placement Consideration

- Children ages 18 months to 3 years old will be referred by their Part C Provider.
- School aged students will be referred by the public school they attend or district in which they reside.
- All referrals must be received in writing from the IFSP or IEP team.
- The referral will include the student's IEP/CST, documentation of educationally significant hearing or vision impairment, reports on any significant medical issues, educational assessment results, functional behavior assessment if applicable, high school transcript and schedule if applicable, attendance reports, discipline reports most recent report card, achievements scores, immunization record and an Evaluation Plan completed by the referring team and signed by the parent.

2. File review by the MSDB intake committee

The intake committee composed of the school psychologist, a school administrator, a program supervisor, appropriate support specialists, classroom teachers and when appropriate, a residential counselor will review the student's file to determine:

- If the student has a qualifying disability of deafness, hearing or visional impairment.
- If the impairment is significant enough to preclude the local district from being able to provide an appropriate educational program for the student.
- If the student's academic, developmental, medical, social/emotional and behavioral needs can be met by the available services and programs at MSDB.
- If the student is a danger to himself or others.
- If the student presents physical or medically related health or safety issues which are beyond the scope of appropriate care by the education or health services staff.
- If the student presents systemic behavior which is disruptive to the educational process of the other students.
- If the goals of the student's current IEP could be accommodated by MSDB for the duration of an evaluation period; if not, some modifications may be made and noted if an evaluation is recommended.

3. Evaluation period (typically 10 school days)

- If, following the file review, an evaluation period at MSDB is recommended, the IEP written by the referring district will remain in force (with any noted modifications made by the MSDB team) and the responsibility for FAPE will remain with the referring district during the evaluation period.
- Parents will be asked to complete the MSDB evaluation/enrollment packet and the dates for the evaluation period will be scheduled when the packet is completed.
- The components of the evaluation may include a classroom based assessment, observations by school and cottage staff as appropriate academic achievement, developmental/cognitive assessment, functional vision, Braille/reading media, technology and orientation and mobility assessments for visually impaired students, audiological, speech/language and communication assessments as appropriate.
- Students requiring residential placement must not be a danger to self or others, must be able to live cooperatively with other students, accept and take direction from staff, demonstrate self-help skills (self-feeding, chewing and swallowing most foods, assist in dressing, bathing and toileting and indicate an awareness of being soiled or wet at the preschool level) that are developmentally appropriate for his/her chronological age.

4. Report back to referring district

- Upon completion of the evaluation period, the referring district will hold an IEP meeting and invite MSDB to report evaluation results.
- Information on eligibility for special services will be discussed.
- Educational implications and recommendations will be discussed.
- Recommendations for support services will be discussed.
- Placement recommendations will be discussed.

5. Enrollment

- Enrollment at MSDB is contingent on the outcome of the evaluation and a recommendation of the MSDB evaluation team that the school can provide the most appropriate educational services for the student and that this placement is the least restrictive setting for the implementation of those services.
- In accordance with an interagency agreement between the Office of Public Instruction and MSDB, a student may not be placed at MSDB by an IEP team without the concurrence of the MSDB representative.
- The child's parent or guardian must accompany the student for a visit and complete all necessary paperwork.

6. Residential enrollment

- Students requiring residential placement must not be a danger to self or others, must be able to live cooperatively with other students, accept and take direction from staff, demonstrate self-help skills (self-feeding, chewing and swallowing most foods, assist in dressing, bathing and toileting, and indicate an awareness of being soiled or wet at the preschool level) that are developmentally appropriate for his/her chronological age.
- The child's parent or guardian must accompany the student for a visit of the residential facilities, complete a program application and provide necessary medical records and releases.

If you have any questions regarding the referral, review, evaluation and enrollment procedures, please contact our Admissions Coordinator at (406) 771-6006 or via [email](#).

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TRANSFER TO LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY

The transfer of students from MSDB to their home school district shall be accomplished by the recommendation of the IEP team.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

MSDB follows the state of Montana graduation requirements. Students wishing to graduate from GFHS must complete GFHS graduation requirements. Students choosing the later may still participate in MSDB's graduation ceremony. For more information, refer to MSDB's Course Catalog.

SUPPORT SERVICES

A school psychologist, speech therapists, audiologist, physical therapist, occupational therapist, and orientation-mobility specialist are available to assist students in their specific areas of need. Students are served on campus and through our state-wide outreach program.

DEFINITION OF "SCHOOL DAY"

The school day shall be defined as any beginning and ending time appropriate to grade level and program.

In general the school day extends from 7:50 AM - 3:05 PM. This includes class periods at MSDB, Lewis and Clark Elementary School, East Middle School, Great Falls High School, and other schools in the city of Great Falls.

The school day includes all scheduled class periods, break times, lunch time and study hall. Students are required to be on campus and at assigned locations during the school day unless otherwise excused through the Principal's office.

BELL SCHEDULE

1st period	7:50 – 8:38	A Lunch	11:10 – 11:55
2nd period	8:40 – 9:28	B Lunch	11:55 – 12:38
3rd period	9:30 – 10:18		
4th period	10:20 – 11:08		
5th period	11:10 – 11:55		
6th period	12:40 – 1:25		
7th period	1:30 – 2:15		
8th period	2:17 – 3:05		

ATTENDANCE

Montana law (MCA 20-5-102, 20-5-103, and 20-5-106) requires all students to attend school until age 16 or eighth grade equivalency. Absences must be excused daily by the student's parent, MSDB health service, or scheduled travel. A student who stays out of school for other reasons and is not sick is **unexcused** and is breaking the attendance laws.

ATTENDANCE POLICY AT MSDB

Policy Number 3122

All students at the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind are required by state law (20-5-101 MCA) to go to school until the age of 16 years or eighth grade equivalency. No student may stay out of school unless that student is ill or has been excused by a doctor for medical reasons. *Oversleeping or missing the bus will not be considered excused.* A student who stays out of school for other reasons and is not sick is **unexcused** and is breaking the attendance laws.

Any time a student is absent from school or from class during the day, s/he is required to bring a written note from a parent, houseparent or infirmary staff explaining the absence. If the absence is less than a full day, the student will be required to get a note from the attendance secretary to leave and to reenter the classroom.

Student admit/passes are required when a student is late from another class or appointment.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

The school day begins at 7:50 a.m. and ends at 3:05 p.m. If a student is going to have a planned absence, a parent or guardian must call the MSDB education secretary at 771-6030 the day before the absence. If a student is ill, the parent or guardian must call on the day of the absence no later than 7:45 a.m. ***If the student is in mainstream classes, the parent must call both MSDB and the public school the child attends.*** This will enable MSDB staff to notify the student's interpreter of the absence. Phone numbers for the attendance offices are:

Lewis and Clark Elementary	268-6705
East Middle School	268-6501
Great Falls High School	268-6251
MSDB	771-6030

MAKE UP WORK

Work missed during excused absences must be made up after the student returns to school or as designated by the teacher. For middle and high school students, it is the student's responsibility to make appointments with the teacher for make up work or to schedule necessary tutoring with the educational interpreter. Assignments may be obtained

obtained for classes by calling the following numbers:

Lewis and Clark Elementary	268-7299 or 268-6705
East Middle School Homework Hotline	268-7299 or 268-6500
Great Falls High School Homework Hotline	268-7299 or 268-6250
MSDB	771-6030

TARDINESS

Policy Number 3122

Students must be seated at their desks at the beginning of each class period. A pass will be required for the student to enter the classroom after the period begins. The Principal will be advised of tardiness on either an absence/tardy form or on SASI (school management database). Detentions will be served for repeated tardiness. Students with a written excuse or telephone permission from parents or cottages should go to the education secretary for a pass before going to class. A tardy will be considered an absence when the first fifteen (15) minutes of a period are missed.

Once in class, students must have the teacher's permission and a pass to leave the classroom for any reason. Staff can ask to see these any time a student is out of the classroom.

Upon return from mainstream classes in the public schools, students must immediately report to their next period class or study hall. Students must have permission and a pass from their teacher or supervisor before they will be allowed to go to any other part of the school building or campus for any reason.

Tardiness in excess of three (3) occurrences in any class during a single quarter will be considered a minor infraction. *At the discretion of the teacher, detention may be given for tardiness.*

TRUANCY

Unexcused absence from any class or study hall makes the student subject to disciplinary action. It is necessary for the student to seek class reinstatement through the Principal's office.

MSDB EXCESSIVE ABSENCES - 10 DAY RULE FOR SENIOR HIGH STUDENTS

GRADES 9 – 12

Policy Number 3122

The Board of Public Education believes that classroom participation is an important part of the learning experience. Therefore, no student will receive credit for a semester of work in any course in which he or she has had more than 10 unexcused absences.

Absences may be excused by the Principal for the following reasons:

- 1) School Related - The student is absent because of a school approved activity or travel.
- 2) Illness or Serious Injury - The student is absent because of an illness or injury. In these cases the parent/guardian must notify the school by phone or in writing. The Principal may request verification from an attending physician.

When a student has five to seven unexcused absences, the Principal/Supervising Teacher will send the student's parents or guardian a letter of notification.

The Principal may waive the provisions of this rule based on special circumstances

and/or emergencies which are unavoidable. A conference will be scheduled with the student, parent or guardian and the Principal before the absence is excused.

TRAVEL DAYS

Because MSDB is committed to seeing that residential students have as much time as possible to be with their families during the school year, a unique school calendar has been developed to include regular travel weekends and/or vacations. To accommodate these travel days and maintain a traditional school calendar, there are days when the Great Falls Public Schools are in session and MSDB is closed. If a residential student misses classes in the Great Falls Public Schools or MSDB due to travel, ***it is important that she or he makes up any missed work during these excused absences.*** Teachers and interpreters will be aware of the travel schedule in advance and will be able to help students make arrangements to complete all assignments due to school related travel. However, it is the student's responsibility to request make up assignments, make arrangements with the interpreter/tutor if assistance is needed and see that all work is turned in as required.

All mainstreamed **students living in the Great Falls area are expected to attend school on travel days and vacation days when the Great Falls Public Schools are in session and MSDB is closed.** It is important to note these dates if a student is taking some or all of his or her classes in one of the public schools. If parents are unable to transport their child, or he or she will not be attending school on any of these dates, ***MSDB must be contacted at least one week in advance so that we can make arrangements for transportation or notify the interpreter of his or her absence.***

GRADE REPORTS

Elementary students are graded on a quarterly basis for classes at MSDB and Lewis and Clark Elementary School.

Middle school students receive midterm and quarter grades from MSDB and East Middle School.

High school students receive quarter grades and midterm deficiency reports, when warranted, from MSDB. High school students receive midterms and quarter grades from Great Falls High School. All deficiency reports, midterm and quarter grade reports are mailed home. At any time, students may do a Grade Check Request in order to see how they are performing in class.

Students that have more than 2 assignments missing and/or have a failing grade will be given a "down slip" by their teacher. Copies of the down slip are to be given to the Principal and appropriate Supervising Teacher as well as the student. The teacher will also inform parents, extra-curricular coaches/sponsors, and HIP HOP tutors. Students with down slips must go to extracurricular practices and must attend HIP-HOP until the missing homework is completed and/or their grade(s) recovered. If a student has not met the recovery criteria within one week, the teacher will inform all parties and the student is to be "benched" for athletic games and remain in classes on days where extra-curricular activities/performances are scheduled. Once a student has achieved recovery status, the teacher will inform the student, parent, cottage, HIP HOP and the Principal. Permission to be a full participant in extracurricular activity is given only by the Principal and it is the

the Principal and it is the Principal/Designee that will contact the athletic director or activity sponsor.

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HONORS and AWARDS

A number of awards are available each year to qualified students. Many individual awards are presented to students at an annual Awards Assembly on the last day of the school year. Additionally, students can earn tickets for the Principal's 100 Club or the Dean's 100 Club, in which they can be selected for a weekly prize drawing, a monthly luncheon with the Principal/Dean, a friend, and a teacher/houseparent, and an end of the year prize. Students are also honored for achieving "Honor Roll" status. All middle and high school students with a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 will achieve *Honors* status while those with a GPA of 3.5 or greater will have earned *High Honors*. Other honors include Schulte's Student of the Week and the Tribune Student of the Week.

It is our belief that in presenting these awards, students will have a number of positive incentives to be recognized for academic and social success.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS

A wide variety of organizations are available to students at MSDB, through the public schools and in the community at large as population and student interest demands.

Four on campus organizations that have held steadfast throughout the years are Jr. NAD, Expressions of Silence, Cane Club, and the High School Class groups.

The Junior National Association of the Deaf (Jr. NAD) is a fraternal organization that performs a variety of service activities centered on the development of a cohesive deaf community. Meetings are held according to parliamentary procedures and officers are elected from the membership of the group. Meetings are held on a regular basis.

Expressions of Silence is a performing group comprised of 6th - 12th graders who perform to songs using sign language and dance. The goal of the group is to provide the students with an opportunity to increase their self-esteem, travel (throughout Montana to perform for various groups), learn new songs, signs, and various choreography routines. They practice diligently throughout the school year to make each performance a memorable event for those fortunate enough to attend.

Cane Club was started by a group of blind and low vision students at MSDB. Their goals are to inform the public about visual impairments, have fun, and learn about the community. The club meets twice a month but may also have special activities. They attend other clubs or facilities in the community for social events with sighted children and adults and invite other groups to join them for planned events. Visually Impaired students from 3rd to 12th grade are invited to join. They sponsor a booth at the yearly Halloween Party and Arbor Day Ice Cream Social.

Class groupings are generally established by the time students have reached ninth grade status. Each Class (i.e. Class of 2005, Class of 2006, etc.) must have adult sponsors. Sponsors are generally staff members.

Class dues are paid by the students and the group participates in a variety of fund raising efforts throughout their high school career. The object of all Class activities is to raise funds for a senior trip, which is generally taken in the spring of the students' senior year. Class sponsors must be approved by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's

designee.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF DONATED FUNDS TO HELP WITH THE SENIOR TRIP

The Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind Foundation has adopted a policy of contributing, from donated funds, up to one half (1/2) the cost of the senior trip at MSDB. This cost would be a maximum of \$300 per student plus travel and per diem for the class sponsor(s).

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

Each teacher will submit their own classroom rules to the Principal. Breaking these rules will have consequences found in the School Wide Rules.

TEN GOALS FOR STUDENTS

1. Respect school authority and obey the school rules.
2. Respect all races, religions, and rights of others.
3. Be courteous, dependable, responsible, self-reliant and on time.
4. Be helpful to family, school, and community.
5. Treat others as I would like to be treated.
6. Help to keep our school clean and attractive.
7. Support and encourage good sportsmanship.
8. Respect and protect school property.
9. Take part in school activities that support school spirit, build pride in our school and develop good attitudes.
10. Be honest and truthful.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Textbooks, pencils and pens are necessary to help students learn. Students can get these things from their teacher. Homework assignments are expected to be done before coming to the classroom, unless a student is sick or was sick the day before. Homework binders are available to help students remember assignments.

Mainstreamed students who are behind with their homework or class projects are not excused from MSDB classrooms. Sports, chores, etc., are not acceptable excuses for not doing homework.

Team members will not be excused from school for athletic practice or games if they have not finished their schoolwork. Homework can be given any night and on weekends.

"Down slips" will be given to students who are falling behind in class (missing more than 2 assignments and/or receiving a failing grade). When a student receives a down slip, they must attend HIP HOP until they are caught up. If a student has not achieved recovery status within one week, students will be "benched" for games and not perform in extra-curricular performances. Students who receive frequent down slips will be subject to the school's behavior plan.

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GOOD STUDY HABITS

Try to become interested in what you are studying. If you are bored, you won't learn or remember what you study. Try to develop good study habits.

1. Think about what you are doing. Think about one idea at a time and forget everything else.
2. Make sure you really understand what the teacher has given you to do for homework. Ask if you are unsure.
3. Read the directions before you do your homework.
4. Do your hard homework **FIRST**. You can think better at the beginning when you are less tired.
5. Make a study plan so you will be able to finish all your homework and be ready for the next day.
6. Use a dictionary to help you to understand new words. Do not depend on a friend or adult to give you the meaning; you may not remember it.
7. When you are confused, ask your teacher for help. Don't be afraid to ask a question or say, "I don't understand!"
8. If you need help, talk to your parents, house parent or counselor.

HOW TO TAKE AND PASS A TEST

1. Get a good night's sleep the night before a test.
2. Read the directions before you start. Be sure you know exactly what you should do.
3. Work quickly; be careful not to make careless mistakes.
4. First, answer the questions that you know.
5. Read all the choices in a multiple-choice question carefully before you pick your answer.
6. Remember that studying on a regular basis is one of the best ways to be prepared for a test.

COMPLETION OF HOMEWORK AND MAKE-UP WORK

Homework is assigned to reinforce and/or give additional practice for a skill taught during recent classes.

All work must be made up, no matter the reasons for the absence. It is the student's **responsibility** to talk with the teacher about make-up work.

Down slips will be given to students who are missing more than 2 assignments and/or receiving failing grade. If a student receives a down slip, they must attend HIP HOP and extra-curricular practices until they have completed their homework and/or recovered their grade. If they do not achieve recovery status within one week, they will be "benched" for athletic games and remain in class during a scheduled extra-curricular activity/performance. Permission to return to full participation in extra-curricular will be given by the Principal. Additional consequences for failing to make up missed assignments will be decided by the teacher following MSDB's behavior plan.

If a student is planning to be absent for two (2) or more days, the student must contact the Principal's office to obtain a MSDB excused absence form which must be signed by each teacher. Each teacher can assign homework or arrange for make-up work. This form must be turned into the Education Secretary before the student is officially excused.

officially excused. Students attending GFHS will also be required to get a pink absence sheet from the GFHS office and have their GFHS teachers sign it. The pink absence sheet is to be turned into GFHS' office for the student to be officially excused.

HIP HOP is a student assistance program that is offered during non-school hours (either before school, after school, or both). Students can elect to attend or be assigned to attend in order to receive help with homework.

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SCHOOL WIDE RULES

Policy Number 3300

MSDB has a campus wide behavior program that emphasizes safety, responsibility and respect in accordance with our progressive discipline policy.

1. Students keep themselves and others safe at all times.

This means:

- Keep your hands, feet and objects to yourself.
- Wear helmets when riding bikes or skateboards.
- No running or horseplay.

This is NOT:

- Pushing, hitting, poking, touching or fighting with others.
- "Rough-housing", throwing objects or horseplay.
- Not having items like cigarette lighters, toy guns or firecrackers.

2. Students are respectful to other students and staff at all times.

This means:

- Use appropriate language and have appropriate conversations.
- Treat each other in a kind manner.
- Respectfully follow directions from **ALL** staff.

This is NOT:

- Swearing or talking "dirty".
- Touching others inappropriately.
- Being rude, name calling or mean teasing.
- Arguing with staff or teachers.

3. Students are responsible for their own behaviors.

This means:

- Follow all school rules.
- Let others know your needs appropriately.
- Accept consequences for your behavior gracefully.
- Have your materials ready and complete your assignments on time.
- Keep your room clean in the cottage and complete cottage chores.
- Be a good sport during games and activities.

This is NOT:

- Intentionally disobeying school rules.
- Yelling or becoming angry when you don't get your own way.
- Blaming others for your behavior.

- Being unprepared for class or not finishing your homework

Sequence of Consequences for rule violations:

School	Cottage
1. Warning.	Warning.
2. Removal from group.	Removal from group.
3. Detention.	"Cottage Detention" – 30 minute delay from Activity Room/Game Room, etc.
4. Detention with call to parent	"Cottage Detention" with call to parents.
5. Detention with administrator conference AND parent call.	"Cottage Detention" with administrator conference AND parent call.
6. ISS	"Stuck"
7. OSS	Sent home

When detention is given, an incident report form and a Stop and Think letter are written. If the student received the letter at school, the student must take the letter to the cottage or home to be signed. After it is signed, the student should take the letter back to school. If the student received the letter at the cottage, they must take it to the school psychologist. to sign and then return to the cottage. The incident report form is given to the Principal or Dean of Students.

Sample Stop and Think Letter

Stop and Think!

Teacher/Staff:

Date:

Dear Parent/Guardian/Cottage Counselor,

Today I had some difficulty making Good Choices. Below is a description of what happened. Please take the time to discuss this incident with me and help me to come up with a positive solution that I can use to make Good Choices in the future. I will return this letter to the staff person or teacher so they can see what solutions we developed. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,
Student Signature:

Incident Details (Cut and paste from incident report):

Solution/Comments:

Parent/Guardian/Cottage Counselor Signature:

DEFINITIONS

DETENTION is defined as a period of time beyond regular school hours, or over the lunch break, during which a student remains in the school building for one of three reasons:

1. Failure to complete class work on time.
2. Inability to conduct himself/herself in a manner conducive to the educational setting.
3. Tardiness.

Length of detention for the first two reasons will be determined by classroom

teacher, and if applicable, the principal or supervising teacher according to the seriousness of the offense.

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS) is defined as that time a student is formally removed from direct participation in school day activities and is required to complete his or her school day activities in an alternative area away from the regular classroom. A student may be placed in in-school suspension status as a result of disciplinary action. In-school suspension can be for a maximum of 5 days. Students on in-school suspension status will follow these rules:

1. The student must remain in the designated areas at all times and is not allowed to use the IMC.
2. Teachers will bring class work to the student and collect the work from the area on a daily basis.
3. Failure to complete class assignments will result in further disciplinary action.

CONFINEMENT TO ROOM is defined as the confinement of a residential student to his/her room except to attend classes or attend meals. Any student confined to his/her room will receive some type of on-going intervention strategy. The length of time being confined to his/her room shall not exceed five (5) days.

CAMPUSED is defined as confinement of a student to the MSDB campus for an infraction of a rule. A student who has been "campused" shall not be permitted to leave the school grounds until the punishment is finished. Any student being campused will receive some type of on-going intervention strategy. The length of being campused shall not exceed five (5) days.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (OSS) is defined as a short term guidance or disciplinary placement of the student at home with his or her parent or guardian. Suspension will not exceed 10 consecutive days or a series of suspensions which does not constitute a significant change in placement (ARM 10.16.2711).

All suspensions will be in accordance with sections 20-4-302, 20-4-402 and 20-4-403, MCA. For those circumstances or conditions where a student is to be suspended, the superintendent will use the following procedures:

1. Call together an appropriate committee to examine the circumstances and reasons for action of suspension.
2. Examine all other alternatives.
3. Communicate and discuss the matter with the parents or guardian.

Expulsion Policy Number 3311

Expulsion is defined as removal of the student from the regular school program at the location where the violation occurred. Expulsion or permanent exclusion is solely the direct responsibility of the Board of Public Education (20-5-202 MCA). All expulsions will be in accordance with PL 101-476, IDEA 20 U.S.C. Sections 1400-1485 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation of the Handicapped Act 29 U.S.C. Section 706 and Montana's Suspension and Expulsion law, Sections 20-5-201 and 20-05-202 MCA.

1. Expulsion will be used only when it is evident that there is little or no possibility of the pupil's ability to benefit from a continued school experience and that his presence would constitute a hazard to the school program. Expulsion or

Expulsion or permanent exclusion is solely the direct responsibility of the Board of Public Education. (MCA 20-5-202)

2. The parents or guardians shall be notified in writing of their opportunity to appear before the Board of Public Education prior to any action of expulsion. (MCA 20-5-202)
3. Upon completion of a Manifest Determination, an IEP meeting will be held and the team will determine continued educational services for a student who has been expelled.

MANIFEST DETERMINATION

In accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, a Manifest Determination will be conducted on any student considered for expulsion. The purpose of Manifest Determination is to decide if the cause of expulsion is in any way connected to the student's disability.

APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. The Superintendent shall make an administrative recommendation to the Board based on a thorough investigation of the case and the recommendations of the Principal or Dean of Students.

NOTIFICATION OF PARENTS OR GUARDIANS

1. Parents shall be notified of the intent to request expulsion by the Board.
2. If the Board expels the student, the Clerk of the Board shall officially notify the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the action.

PROCEDURE FOR READMITTANCE

1. Readmission of an expelled student is possible provided the cause(s) leading to the expulsion have been corrected or substantially diminished.
2. Readmission is subject to approval by the Board.

TITLE IX AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

What is Title IX? Title IX is a federal law that states that no one can be treated differently or discriminated against based on whether they are a boy or a girl. This law has also come to encompass sexual harassment.

What is sexual harassment? Sexual harassment is defined as any unwanted behavior of a sexual or gender-directed nature (either verbal, non-verbal, visual or physical) that is persistent, severe or objectively offensive enough that it interferes with work or learning. You need to know that it doesn't matter if you think you are only kidding, flirting, or don't think something is a big deal, if someone else feels uncomfortable with your behavior or the things you say to them, you are guilty of sexual harassment.

What should I do if I think someone is sexually harassing me? Tell them to stop it, and report the incident to a staff person right away! ALL schools have a Title IX Coordinator whose job is to investigate allegations of sexual harassment. If you feel you are being harassed, please report it to the Title IX Coordinator.

What can I expect if I report sexual harassment or am accused of sexual harassment? If you make a report of sexual harassment or are accused of sexual harassment, the report will be taken seriously and kept private except for other people named as witnesses or anyone that *you* want to have with you during an interview. If you

you are reporting sexual harassment against you, steps will be taken to make sure that the harassment stops IMMEDIATELY and that you are safe! Then, both sides (the accuser and the accused) will be allowed to tell what happened, and anyone else who may have seen or heard the incident will also be interviewed. After everyone involved has been interviewed, a report will be written and submitted to the superintendent. He will decide if the report is "substantiated" (has enough evidence to support the accusation). If the superintendent decides that sexual harassment has occurred, he will take whatever disciplinary steps he feels are appropriate.

Non-retaliation policy. Title IX and MSDB have what is called a "non-retaliation policy". What this means is that it is a violation of the Title IX laws to try and "get even with" or "get back at" anyone who is accused of sexual harassment or makes a report of sexual harassment against them. This includes asking other people to do the "getting even" for you. Violations of the Non-Retaliation will be taken seriously and are dealt with in the same way sexual harassment!

SEARCHES AND SEIZURES

Policy Number 323

The Superintendent, Principal, Dean of Students or authorized designee shall be authorized to conduct any searches or to seize property on or near the MSDB campus if he/she has reasonable suspicion to believe that any locker, car, or other container of any kind on school or cottage premises contains any item or substance which constitutes an imminent danger to the health and safety of any person or to the property of any person or MSDB. The authorized administrator or designee may perform random searches of any locker, car, or container of any kind on school premises without notice or consent. No student shall hinder, obstruct, or prevent any search authorized by this procedure.

Whenever circumstances allow, any search or seizure authorized shall be conducted in the presence of at least one (1) adult witness, and a written record of the time, date, and results shall be made by the administrator or designee. A copy shall be forwarded to the Superintendent as soon as possible.

In any instance where an item or substance is found which would appear to be in violation of the law, the circumstance shall be reported promptly to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

In any situation where the administrator or designee is in doubt as to the propriety of proceeding with any search or seizure, the administrator or designee is authorized to report to and comply with the directions of any public law enforcement agency.

MSDB POLICY ON THE USE OF ALCOHOL, DRUGS, TOBACCO PRODUCTS OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Policy Number 3310

The possession or use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco or controlled substances of any kind is not permitted on the MSDB school grounds or while under the supervision of MSDB staff at any school, cottage, or extracurricular activity or trip. No student will be under the influence of, buy, sell, give or encourage another student to consume or use alcohol, drugs, tobacco products or controlled substances. Legitimate use of medications including prescription drugs, over the counter medications or vitamins is permitted under the

permitted under the supervision of the health services office. All medications must be kept in the Health services.

Possession or use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco products or controlled substances constitutes a major infraction under MSDB's Progressive Discipline Plan. In the event that a student is found to be in violation of this policy the Great Falls Police Department will be notified and the student may be subject to applicable "Minor in Possession" statutes (45-5-624 and 45-5-637 MCA). A conference will be held with the parent or guardian. Further, students found in violation of this policy will be subject to the disciplinary actions/consequences of the Progressive Discipline Plan.

MSDB POLICY ON GUN FREE SCHOOLS

Policy Number 3315

In accordance with the provisions of the Gun Free Schools Act, no student will possess any firearm, without authorization, on school property, on the way to or from school or during any activities.

Violation of this provision may result in school expulsion for a period of one calendar year by the Board of Public Education. The administration may make exceptions on a case by case basis to suspend the student or students involved pending a hearing before the Board. Modifications to the one year expulsion may be made by the Board on a case by case basis.

The term "firearm" will be defined as provided in (18 U.S.C. 921). This term will include any weapon which is designed, or may be converted, to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, a muffler or silencer for such weapon, or any explosive, incendiary or poison gas.

The superintendent may allow authorized persons to display firearms or dangerous objects for educational purposes. Advance written permission must be received before such objects may be brought onto school property. The firearm must be unloaded and in a condition which makes it incapable of being fired. No ammunition for the firearm may be on school property at the same time as the firearm. At the conclusion of the display, the firearm must be immediately removed from school property.

If a student violating this policy is identified as a child with disabilities either under the IDEA or section 504, a determination must be made whether the child's conduct is related to the disability. If the violation of the policy is due to a disability recognized by the IDEA or section 504, lawful procedures for changes in placement must be followed for suspensions greater than ten days and up to forty-five days.

Any student subject to expulsion will be entitled to a hearing before the Board of Public Education and in accordance with applicable sections of 20-5-202 MCA. Nothing in this policy will prevent the Board from making an alternative placement for the student in lieu of expulsion provided that such placement removes the student from the regular school program.

MSDB will keep a record of all students disciplined under this policy and the circumstances surrounding their discipline, including the number of students expelled and the types of weapons involved. This information will be provided to other governmental agencies as required by law.

WEAPONS POLICY

Weapons include firearms, hunting knives, clubs, simulated weapons or anything used to hurt another person. High school students are permitted to have a pocket knife if the overall length of the blade is not more than 2 inches. Students who have pocket knives are expected to use them safely. A pocket knife that opens mechanically is a weapon.

STUDENT USE OF MOTOR VEHICLES (Cars & Motorcycles)

No student is allowed to have a car or motorcycle on campus without permission from the Superintendent and their parents or legal guardian.

After permission has been granted, residential students must keep their keys in the cottage office at all times that the vehicle is not in use. The vehicle may be used under the following conditions:

1. Permission has been secured from the Dean of Students.
2. Special permission must be secured from the Administration and the parents of all students involved for any passengers to be allowed to travel with the student.
3. Limitations and/or restrictions set by parents will be strictly enforced.
4. Permission to have a private passenger vehicle on campus can be denied or rescinded by the Superintendent throughout the school year.
5. Proof of insurance must be on file in the Dean's office.
6. Students must have a valid Montana driver's license.
5. Students must park their cars in the lot located between the school and the gymnasium.
6. No vehicle maintenance will be performed on campus.
7. The school assumes no responsibility for any theft, damage or vandalism to any motor vehicle either on or off campus.
8. Driving during or immediately after inclement weather is not permitted.
9. Any student driving on campus in a reckless and disorderly manner will have his/her motor vehicle privileges revoked. They may only be renewed on the recommendation of the administration of MSDB.

Students as Passengers

Students may ride in private vehicles (other than immediate family members or MSDB staff) only after a written parental consent form is on file in the office.

USE OF BICYCLES ON AND OFF CAMPUS

Residential Students

Students may bring their own bicycles to school and are free to use them according to the following regulations:

1. The School will not be responsible for loss, theft or damage to any bicycle or from any injury to a student.
2. Houseparent permission is required whether riding on or off campus.
3. Students can use their bicycles as long as they stay in the areas they are signed out for and return on time.
4. No bicycle riding will be permitted on or off campus during school

- school hours or after dark.
5. Permission to use a bicycle at MSDB can be denied at any time by the Dean of Students based on reports of rule violations.
 6. When not in use, all bicycles must be kept in the locked storage areas provided by the school.
 7. Anyone using a bicycle in the street must follow all traffic rules and laws.
 8. No student will be permitted to ride a bicycle off campus until written parental permission is on file in the administrative office.
 9. Students are not permitted to use other student's bicycles.
 10. Students who ride their bicycles on campus must use them appropriately and with consideration for the students and adults who are walking or playing on the campus grounds.
 11. Must wear helmet while riding.

Additional Regulations for Day Students

In addition to following the rules for the residential students, day students are expected to know and follow these rules:

1. Bike racks are available on the school grounds and should be used.
2. Day students are not permitted to ride during the lunch hour or at any time during the regular school day.
4. All bicycles should be locked when left unattended. The school is not responsible for loss, theft, or damage to any bicycle or for any injury to a student.

NETWORK ACCESS

Policy Number 3612

Students have access to computers in order to complete homework assignments, communicate via e-mail, or research information via the Internet. Students can only gain access to computers, Email and the Internet through signed permission from their parent(s) and/or guardian(s). Students are also required to sign a student technology contract that lists rules and consequences. If a student breaks the technology contract, he/she will be suspended from the use of the Internet and Email (possibly computers) for nine (9) weeks for the first offense. At the second offense, the student will be suspended from Internet and Email use for the remainder of the school year. Students who are suspended, and email family members on a regular basis, may be given a short period of time to access email services in order to send/receive electronic mail from family members.

Technology rules:

- Expect supervision.
- Keep your password private. Keep personal information private (not tell my name, address, phone number, etc. online).
- Don't be nosey (Don't look in other's folders/documents and don't try to figure out others' passwords. No "hacking".)
- Don't use another person's password. If you learn their password, report it so the password can be changed.
- Don't download and/or install any programs.

- Don't search for or go to inappropriate web sites. Report any accidental hits on inappropriate web sites to an adult and to the Network Manager.
- Don't give your email address out on the Internet without permission (do not sign up for things or have things emailed to you).
- Don't use online email (like Yahoo mail, Hotmail, MSN mail, AOL mail, etc.).
- Don't go into "chat rooms" without teacher permission.
- Don't use instant messaging programs (like MSN, AOL, etc.).
- Don't use bad language, insult, bother, or threaten others on email.
- Don't forward jokes, pictures, and other things to many people at one time and don't send mail to "students" or "staff" without an adult's permission.
- Don't damage technology equipment.
- Don't use technology in an illegal manner.

TELEPHONE USAGE

Students are welcome to call home during non-class times. Permission by an administrator is needed to make a call during class time. A TTY is available to use at the Education Secretary's desk. The students may access the Montana Relay as necessary. Students should remember that the campus telephones are primarily "business lines" and keep their calls as short as possible.

Cell Phones and Electronic Signaling Devices:

Student possession and use of cellular phones, pagers, and other electronic signaling devices or calling devices on school grounds during the instructional day is a privilege which shall be permitted only with the permission of the Superintendent, Principal, Dean of Students or designee. Permission must be granted to the student each time he or she is to use a cell phone, pager, electronic signaling device or calling device during school hours. At no time shall any student operate any cellular phone or other electronic device with video capabilities (i.e.: camera phone, video camera) in any locker room, bathroom, or other location where it would violate the privacy right of another person, or, interferes with classroom instruction and school business. Unauthorized use will result in confiscation of the device by school officials, including classroom teachers, and may result in disciplinary action. Confiscated devices may be returned, at the discretion of the administration, to the parent or guardian of the student or to the student.

USE OF ELECTRONIC GAMES DURING SCHOOL HOURS

The use of electronic gaming equipment is not allowed during the school day. If a student brings one to school and attempts to use it, the game can be confiscated by school officials, including classroom teachers, and may result in disciplinary action. Confiscated games will be given to the Principal and sent home.

Revised 9/2005

STUDENT DRESS CODE

Policy Number 3224

Appropriate dress and grooming for the school setting are expected of students.

Examples of clothing not suitable to wear anywhere on campus or during school activities, functions or trips include, but are not limited to: clothing with language or graphics that offend community standards, mesh garments, see-through clothing, Johnson shirts, clothing or jewelry with alcohol, marijuana, or tobacco logos or advertising.

Hats are not to be worn in school buildings, Mustang Center or classrooms, and may be confiscated if they are. Halter neck shirts, midriff shirts, and muscle shirts are not suitable for wear at school or at any school sponsored activities. There must be a minimum of three inches of strap on the shoulder for shirts and five inches inseam for shorts.

No student on school property or at any school-sponsored activity shall wear, possess, use, distribute, display, or sell any clothing jewelry, emblem, badge symbol, sign, or other items which are evidence of membership in or affiliation with any gang and/or is representative of any gang.

Directors of extracurricular and co-curricular activities may establish standards of personal appearance, including dress and grooming requirements for such activities. Students wishing to participate in those extracurricular and co-curricular activities shall abide by those standards.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, PARTICIPATION AND RULES FOR GROUPS TRAVELING OUT OF TOWN

The following rules and requirement will be followed by the participants in extracurricular activities and school related trips and enforced by the administration, coaches, teachers and supervisors of the various activities.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for scholastic competition, a student must have passing grades (D or higher) in all credit earning classes one semester prior to participation in the activity. When required, students must provide appropriate medical consent forms signed by a parent or guardian.

PARTICIPATION

Students that have more than 2 missing assignments and/or have a failing grade will be given a "down slip" by their teacher. Students with down slips must attend extracurricular practices until the missing homework is completed and/or the grade(s) recovered. Students who have not achieved recovery status within one week of receiving the down slips are to be "benched" for athletic games and remain in classes on days where extra-curricular activities/performances are scheduled. Permission to be a full participant in extracurricular activity is given only by Principal/Designee after being notified by a teacher that the student has completed homework and is passing.

Truancy and/or any form of behavior at school resulting in a suspension will cause the participant to be ineligible to participate, perform or play in any activity during the length of the suspension. A second suspension will cause the student to be ineligible for both participation and practice in any activity for a period of not less than seven calendar days.

Revised 9/2005

BEHAVIORAL REQUIREMENTS

Policy Number 3310

Specific "Code of Conduct and Participation Agreement" forms will be issued for individual extra-curricular activities. Signatures of students, parents, coaches/sponsors, and others will signify that all agree to abide by the administration approved policies set forth on the form.

Revised 8/2005

All school practices and policies will apply to all students under the supervision of school staff whenever students are off the MSDB campus. Particularly:

1. Possession or use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco products or controlled substances is not permitted at any time.
2. Students must comply with the Student Dress Code at all times. The wearing of sweat suits and other athletic clothing will be allowed at appropriate times and only if approved by the coach or supervisor.

School sponsored, or school related trips, whether in or out of Great Falls will come under the following additional regulations:

1. Students will be expected, at all times, to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to representing the school.
2. Gambling is NOT permitted at any time.
3. Students must remain with the supervisor and the group at all times. A written release of responsibility, signed by the parent or guardian is required permitting a student to separate from the group.
4. Students will not, under any circumstances, be permitted to ride in private cars, during the duration of the trip, except as specifically arranged by the supervisor through the Superintendent's office prior to the trip.
5. Room and luggage searches are a routine responsibility of the supervisor.
6. Curfews will be imposed at the discretion of the activity supervisor.
7. Visitors will not be allowed in student motel or hotel rooms during the duration of the trip.
8. A student involved in any felony or misdemeanor offense will be returned to the custody of his/her parents, who will be responsible for any legal proceedings.

If any of these rules are broken, the parents will be called and the student will subject to the MSDB Discipline Plan.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Policy Number 3200

It is the policy of the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind that students have certain rights as well as responsibilities. These rights may not interfere with the rights of other students, staff members or the operation of instructional or residential programs.

QUALITY EDUCATION

Right -Students have the right to a quality educational program which is appropriate to their needs and goals.

Responsibility-Students have the responsibility to take advantage of the

educational experiences offered them and to put forth their best effort.

COMPETENT FACULTY AND STAFF

Right -Students have the right to participate in their education under competent faculty and staff.

Responsibility -Students are responsible for meeting the requirements of their classes and other programs in which they participate.

RESPECT

Right -Students have the right to receive courtesy, fairness, and respect from members of the school staff and other students.

Responsibility -Students have the responsibility to extend courtesy, fairness, and respect to members of the school staff and other students.

DECISION MAKING

Right -Students have the right to help make decisions which affect their lives in school. This right includes decisions related to selection of courses of study beyond the required curriculum, participation in activities, and representation in student government.

Responsibility -Students have the responsibility to participate in school programs, activities, and student government by voting for candidates of their choice or running for office. They are also responsible for making their problems known to the faculty, staff, and administration.

GRADES

Right -Students have the right to periodically review their progress with the teachers.

Responsibility - Students have the responsibility to periodically review their progress with teachers and seek additional help when needed.

FULL PARTICIPATION

Right -Students have the right to participate in all school organizations and activities based upon their interest, abilities, and skills.

Responsibility -Students have the responsibility to take part in activities which are designed to help them develop into fully functioning, self-reliant, mature adults.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Right -Students have the right to express their opinions verbally or in writing without jeopardizing their relations with faculty and staff. They have the right to distribute such materials on school grounds or in campus buildings as long as this expression in no way interferes with the orderly process of the school. Written approval of the appropriate school official is required.

Responsibility -Students have the responsibility to express their opinions and ideas in a respectful and responsible manner that does not offend or slander others. Freedom of expression does not extend to profane, vulgar, or pornographic materials. (Limitations through exercise of school rules are not infringements on personal rights to freedom of expression.)

COMMUNICATION

Right -Students have the right to access a variety of communication modes (speech, lip reading, sign language, finger spelling, reading, writing, and listening) as part of language and communication acquisition and development. The students also have the right to have understandable, clear, and meaningful interaction with other students and faculty/staff through a variety of communication modes as part of their learning environment.

Responsibility-Students have the responsibility to make a good faith effort to learn and master communication skills in a variety of modes.

ACCESS TO RECORDS

Right-Parents, guardians, or eligible students (18 years of age and older or attending a post-secondary school) have the right to review, update, and question the information in the student's permanent cumulative record.

Responsibility -Parents, guardians, or eligible students have the responsibility of providing the school with accurate and current information.

PROTECTION OF INFORMATION

Right -Students have the right to be protected by laws which prohibit the release of personally identifiable information to other than legally authorized persons without the consent of the parent, guardian, or an eligible student.

Responsibility-Parents, guardians, or eligible students have the responsibility to release information to legally authorized persons.

DUE PROCESS

Right-Students have the right to due process.

Responsibility-Due process will include the student being advised by the appropriate school official, usually the Principal or Dean of Students, of their misconduct, the rule which has been broken, and the reason for the accusation. When a student's offense calls for disciplinary action such as a long-term suspension or expulsion, the student shall be entitled to a hearing before the Superintendent. Students are entitled to be represented by anyone they choose, including an attorney.

SAFETY

Right -Students have the right to have a safe school environment in which to learn and live.

Responsibility-Students have the responsibility to follow established rules of conduct and decorum. Students should assist other students, faculty and staff in having a safe school.

PROPERTY RIGHTS

Right-Students have the right of privacy of their personal possessions unless there is reason to believe that the student is possessing or concealing weapons, drugs, or other materials prohibited by school rules.

Responsibility -Students have the responsibility to respect the property of others and not to carry, possess or conceal weapons, drugs, or other materials that are

are prohibited by state laws or school rules.

RIGHT OF ASSEMBLY

Right -Students have the right to assemble.

Responsibility -Students have the responsibility to plan, seek approval, and conduct assemblies which are consistent with the objectives of the school.

RULES OF STUDENT CONDUCT

Right -Students have the right to expect clear and understandable rules of student conduct and to have the rules enforced fairly and consistently.

Responsibility - Students have the responsibility to know and follow the school rules which pertain to them.

DRESS AND GROOMING

Right - Students have the right to dress in a way that expresses their personalities within the bounds of good taste and safety. Clothing should not disrupt the orderly process of school.

Responsibility -Students have the responsibility to dress and appear on school campus according to standards of propriety, safety, and health set forth in the Student Dress Code.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Right -Students have the right to organize and participate in student organizations and extra-curricular activities, providing that group does not deny membership to any student because of race, religion, nationality, or physical handicaps.

Responsibility - Students have the responsibility to seek consent from school administrators or proper designated school personnel before organizing students and to follow the rules for membership in clubs, organizations, and activities.

LIVING ENVIRONMENT

Right- Students have the right to a non-disruptive atmosphere which ensures a favorable learning environment.

Responsibility -Students have the responsibility to control their actions so they are not unruly, unreasonable, or disruptive.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION

Right-Students have the right to their own religious beliefs.

Responsibility -Students have the responsibility to not interfere with other students' rights to religious freedom.

TRANSPORTATION

Right-Students have the right to safe and orderly transportation to and from school. This includes field trips, athletic, and other off campus trips.

Responsibility-Students have the responsibility to behave so they are not a danger to themselves or others; and to refrain from violating federal, state, or local laws.

COTTAGE

PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES

The philosophy of the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind's residential program is to provide the hearing impaired and visually impaired students enrolled at the school with "the best" residential care and after school programs possible to minimize the limitations present as a result of their disabilities. Our goal is to prepare these children for the fullest possible participation in society, and to teach them how to use after school time in wholesome, constructive ways.

The objectives of our residential program are:

- To provide opportunities for hearing impaired and visually impaired students to grow into mature, independent young adults with the ability to manage decision making situations.
- To support the educational process in the areas of total communication, concept development and orientation and mobility.
- To provide for the development of motor skills, and understanding of fair play and the development of healthy bodies through sports and recreational activities.
- To provide for the development of a healthy self concept through a supportive, warm, loving, and understanding living environment.
- To co-ordinate activities in the residential program with those which are provided in the classroom.

HEALTH SERVICES

Health services are provided on campus for the medical needs of our students.

Any and all medications, including aspirin and vitamins, are dispensed through the health services. Any student who has a fever or has vomited will be detained in the health services to monitor their condition. Parents will be contacted by telephone any time a student is admitted to the health services for an illness. Because of the possibility of contracting or spreading illness, students are not permitted to visit other students in the health service facility.

Medical files are kept in the Health Service. In cases of accidents or serious illnesses, if parents can not be contacted, the staff will determine if emergency medical attention is required. A signed hospital admittance paper is required to be on file in the Health Services so that students can be admitted in cases where parents are not available. All medical and dental bills incurred by the student are the responsibility of the parents or guardian.

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Student behavior and discipline are based on the requirement that all students at the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind understand and maintain a reasonable code of acceptable behavior, conform to the rules and regulations, and comply with all requests

requests made by the staff in relation to MSDB routine.

Students must recognize that teachers and cottage personnel have the responsibility of maintaining a behavioral climate that makes for successful learning and living both in the classroom and in the cottage. The educational and residential staff will give the students firm and consistent guidance in and out of the classroom.

RULES FOR DAY STUDENTS

Students who attend MSDB, but live at home in Great Falls, are welcome to visit the cottages during regularly scheduled visiting hours. These times will be posted in the office.

When day students visit in the cottage, they are expected to obey all of the rules that have been established for the residential students. They are required to show respect and obey the houseparents.

If a day student wishes to travel with cottage students to an activity, they must first get permission from the staff on duty in the Dean's office. They must obey the adult while traveling and at the activity. In a case where the state vehicle is full, permission to attend an activity will be denied to a day student before it is denied to a residential student.

Day students are responsible for transportation to or from their home.

SIGNING IN AND SIGNING OUT PROCEDURES

All visitors and guests at the cottages are expected to sign in at the cottage office.

All residential students are expected to sign out whenever they leave the campus. (Sign out forms are located in each cottage.) Younger students are to be signed out by their houseparents or the adult that is taking them off campus. Students at the Junior High and Senior High level are responsible for signing out for themselves after they have obtained permission from their houseparents.

All students must sign out.

PROGRESSIVE EARNING OF PRIVILEGES

Participation in both on and off campus activities is a privilege. Students earn the privilege of participating in activities. They must demonstrate the ability to behave in an appropriate manner, cooperate with staff on a daily basis, and understand the basic rules at MSDB.

As students demonstrate an ability to manage themselves, they will be given more opportunities to use self reliance and independence. If a student demonstrates a self-centered attitude and a lack of respect for the others, privileges will be lost.

Freedom is based on responsibility, maturity, and respect. Students who demonstrate these qualities are better able to profit from their educational experience at MSDB.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

All residential students are encouraged to take part in the cottage work study program in order to earn an allowance. This program gives them the opportunity to earn their own spending money and learn about the responsibilities of having a job.

It is possible for students in High School to participate in part-time on and off campus employment. This occurs only on an approved and closely monitored basis. Students must maintain a "C" average in school and exhibit an appropriate level of maturity and dependability. They must also have parental permission to work off-campus.

Transportation to and from off campus employment is arranged on a case by case basis.

STUDENT BANK

As a service to our students, the cottage maintains a student bank. This system is divided into two separate accounts. The portion labeled "parent account" includes all money that has been deposited by parents for that account. The portion labeled "student account" includes all funds that the student earns for themselves from their participation in the Work/Study Program either on campus or from outside employment and from all other sources unless specifically designated for the "parent account".

Students are permitted to withdraw funds from the "parent account" only with permission from their parents. If parents wish for their child to have access to this money on an "allowance" basis, a record will be kept at the student bank and they will be limited to the amount established by their parents.

Students are permitted to withdraw funds from the "student account" during assigned and posted hours. Limits on the amount of money available to a student from the "student account" are placed only when this is the express wish of their parents and a notation to this effect has been placed in the student's file.

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to use the student bank. The school is not responsible for any money that is lost or stolen while in the student's possession. Cottage banking hours are set at the beginning of each school year.

TELEPHONE USAGE

The school provides residential students with the opportunity to call home once a week (long distance) at no charge to the parents. A schedule is developed at the beginning of each school year.

Because of the large number of students who use the phone, students should limit their long distance calls to a reasonable length of time. Interpreter services are available as needed for those students who wish this service. In addition to one long distance call per week, each student is permitted to make local phone calls.

Students should remember that the campus telephones are primarily "business lines" and keep their calls as short as possible. A log is kept of all long distance calls made by students.

Students may have and use cellular phones, pagers, and other electronic signaling devices or calling devices with the permission of the Superintendent, Principal, Dean of Students or designee. Students are allowed to use a cell phone, pager, electronic signaling

signaling device or calling device only during established telephone hours. At no time shall any student operate a cellular phone or other electronic device with video capabilities (i.e.: camera phone) in any locker room, bathroom, or other location where it would violate the privacy right of another person. Unauthorized use will result in confiscation of the device by school officials, including houseparents, and may result in disciplinary action. Confiscated devices may be returned, at the discretion of the administration, to the parent or guardian of the student or to the student.

Use of Video Games, Personal TV's, DVD Players and other Entertainment Devices

It is the desire of the residential program to make the environment as "homelike" as possible. However, there are some instances where what may be allowable in the home may not exist in the cottage program to the same degree. The staff has found it rather difficult at times to monitor these devices resulting in conflicts with students regarding the appropriate use of these items. It is not uncommon for a student to be watching TV or playing a game during quiet hour or refusing to turn off the game and go to bed. These games and TV's tend to create problems for the students getting behind in their school work creating another source of conflict between students and staff. Additionally, we have found many students will not socialize with others and want to spend all their time in their rooms playing games or watching TV alone. The administration and staff want students to spend their time in a healthy and productive manner – spending all their free time in front of the TV or playing video games is not healthy nor is it productive. The following guidelines have been established for use of Video Games, Personal TV's, DVD Players and other Entertainment Devices:

1. Each cottage wing will have a room or area set-up for the use of games (Play Station, Xbox, etc.). This area will be supervised by the cottage staff.
2. Students may bring their game set-ups and play during established "Game Room" times.
3. Students will be able to play on their own game station.
4. Students may bring games from home to be played in the Game Room.
5. The games may be kept in their rooms.
6. Games rated "M" (mature) or "Adult" are not permitted in the cottage program.
 - a. If these items are found they will be confiscated until the next travel home or when the parent is able to take the item home.
7. Students are not permitted to have a Game Station set-up in their room.
8. Students are not permitted to have a TV in their room.
9. Students are not permitted to have a portable DVD player in their room.
 - a. If these items are found they will be confiscated until the next travel home or when the parent is able to take the item home.
10. Each cottage wing will have at least one TV/VCR/DVD for the students use.
11. Movies rated PG-13 and lower are permitted in the cottage program (student must be 13 years of age to view the PG-13 movies).
12. Students may bring videos from home for viewing in the cottage program.
 - b. Movies rated "R" will be confiscated until the next travel home or when the parent is able to take the item home.
13. Students are required to mark their games, DVD's, videos for proof of ownership.

Students will be permitted to have the following items as long as it does not interfere with their study hour, bedtime or chores. Failure to do so will result in lose of privileges and item may be confiscated.

1. Students may have personal stereo's (boom boxes, IPod's, Discman's, etc.) in their rooms.
2. Students may have a handheld (Game Boy) game in their room.
3. Students may have a musical instrument in their room.

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CLOTHING

All students should be provided with enough clothing to get them through at least a week. Students at the Middle School and High School are required to care for their own clothing (including doing their own wash according to an established schedule). Towels and bedding (including blankets, pillows, and bedspreads) are provided by MSDB. Students are expected to provide their own toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, and other personal items.

Students are required to have robes and slippers in case of a fire or fire drill. While in the Food Service building, students are required to wear shoes and shirts. Because of frequent visits to cottage areas by tours, and families, students are required to be properly dressed at all times while in the living areas of the cottages.

ROOM DECORATION

Students are permitted to place pictures, art work, or other decorations on the tack panels in their rooms. Under no circumstances are students to make nail or tack holes. Houseparents should be consulted if there are any questions.

DATING AND OFF CAMPUS REGULATIONS

Students are permitted to date with the consent of their parents and the approval of the Dean of Students. Requests for dating privileges are to be made to the Dean of Students three days before the date. (It is understood that special events may occur making shorter notice necessary.)

Limitations are made on an individual basis and are determined by the student's maturity. Hours will vary depending on a student's age and grade level. Copies of regular dating hours are available to students and parents in the cottage office. Special occasions may require extension of these hours. Special requests are to be made to the Dean of Students. Failure to follow established off-campus rules could result in the loss of this privilege.

WEEKEND VISITS TO OTHER STUDENT'S HOMES

If a student wishes to visit another student's home, parents should make contact with each other and make the travel arrangements. They should let staff know the student's destination in writing.

Because the purpose of the "travel weekends" is for the student to visit family, no reimbursement will be made for students who travel to a destination other than home.

INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS PROGRAM

In their junior and senior year, students are eligible for membership in the Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP). Participation depends on acceptance by an Administrative Committee and is based on maturity, reliability, and readiness for a limited supervision experience. Eligible students must also have written consent from their parents.

This program provides an opportunity for students to live in an environment with minimal supervision and maximum personal responsibility. Further information on specific requirements for participation and regulations for students who are accepted in ILSP is available through the counseling or cottage administrative staff.